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## *Advertising & Copy Deadline*

Ads and submissions must be received by the fifth of the  
month for the items to appear in the next issue:

**January 5 for the February issue;**  
**February 5 for March.**

**Submit all ads, donations, payments, changes of address  
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**Judged Best Magazine/Newsletter for 2009 and  
2014-2024 by Chess Journalists of America!**

## Front Cover

WCF President Josh Sinanan makes his opening remarks at  
the 2024 SPFNO behind a wall of sparkly trophies.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

## Back Cover

Sharks were circling on and off the board at the 2024  
SPFNO for this young fellow with his pirate facepaint!  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

## Submissions

Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for  
games), stories, photos, art, and other **original** chess-  
related content are encouraged! Multiple submissions are  
acceptable; please indicate if material is non-exclusive. All  
submissions are subject to editing or revision. Send via  
U.S. Mail to:

**Jeffrey Roland, NWC Editor**

**1514 S. Longmont Ave.**

**Boise, Idaho 83706-3732**

or via e-mail to:

[jeffreyroland9@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyroland9@gmail.com)

### Subscriptions / Premium Memberships

*Individual residents of WA/OR only.*

*Washington residents please add sales tax.*

*Idaho residents see*

*<https://www.idahocheessassociation.com/>*

		Rate
<b>Adult</b>	1 year	\$ 30.00
	3 years	\$ 80.00
<b>Junior</b>	1 year	\$ 24.00
	<i>Age U/21 at expiration</i>	2 years \$ 43.00
<b>Scholastic</b>	6 months	\$ 14.00
<b>Senior</b>	1 year	\$ 25.00
	<i>Age 65 or over</i>	3 years \$ 65.00
<b>Additional Family Members</b>	1 year	\$ 10.00
	<i>Residing at same address</i>	2 years \$ 18.00
		3 years \$ 25.00
<b>Tournament/Trial</b>	1 month	\$ 12.00

### Online Subscriptions / Basic Memberships

*Individual residents of Oregon only.*

		Rate
<b>Adult</b>	1 year	\$ 17.50
	<b>Junior (U/21 at expiration)</b>	1 year \$ 10.00
<b>Senior</b>	1 year	\$ 17.50
<b>Additional Family Members</b>	1 year	\$ 5.00

### Non-Member Subscriptions

		Rate
<b>U.S. addresses</b>	1 year	\$ 30.00
	3 years	\$ 80.00
<b>Canada</b>	1 year	\$ 40.00
<b>Foreign</b>	1 year	\$ 60.00

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## WCF Membership Rates Rise January 1

Dear WCF Members and *Northwest Chess* Subscribers,

These past few years, chess in the Pacific Northwest has grown and thrived, with record-breaking attendance at many events. As chess activity has grown, unfortunately so have expenses and rising costs in the economy. By increasing dues by about 10% across the board, we hope to ensure that Washington Chess Federation and *Northwest Chess* can continue to run high quality events and cover the rising printing and mailing costs in the years to come.

Thank you for supporting chess in the Pacific Northwest. The new rates effective January 1, 2025, can be found below.

- **Adult** - \$33 or \$88 for 3 years
- **Young Adult** (age 19-24) - \$30 or \$54 for 2 years
- **Junior** - \$27 or \$50 for 2 years
- **Scholastic** (6-month Junior) - \$16
- **Senior** (65+) - \$27 or \$70 for 3 yrs
- **Additional family** (at same address) - \$11 each, \$20 for 2 years (with \$50 junior primary membership) or \$28 for 3 years
- **one-month (tournament/trial)** - \$14
- **Foreign** - US\$44 Canada, US\$66 all others

Washington residents please add sales tax.

Yours in Chess,

Josh Sinanan  
President  
Washington Chess Federation

# 2024 SPFNO

## SPFNO Organizers

The 19th Annual Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls and Boys was held at the Hilton Bellevue in Bellevue, Washington on the weekend of October 26-27, 2024. Scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated from throughout the west coast, from states including

Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, and California. A total of 488 players, a SPFNO record, competed across eleven sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-1 U700, 2-3 U700, 4-6 U700, K-3 Open, 4-6 Open, 7-12 Open, K-5 Girls, K-5 Open, K-8 Open, K-12 Girls, and K-12 Open.

The two-day chess festival was co-hosted by the Susan Polgar Foundation (SPF) and the Washington Chess Federation (WCF). SPF Founder Grandmaster Susan Polgar and SPF co-Founder Paul Truong were the guests of honor, having just recently returned from the recent FIDE Chess Olympiad in Budapest! The fantastic team of WCF President Josh Sinanan (Chief Organizer), Jacob Mayer (Chief Tournament Director), Ben Radin (Registration and Pairings Director), and Eddie Chang (Events Manager) organized the event and coordinate the weekend's busy slate of activities.

The amazing group of dedicated volunteers, judges, and tournament directors included Norm May, Adam Porth, Ani Barua, Rekha Sagar, Valentin Razmov, Stani Vlasseva, Kai Pisan, Siva Sankrithi, Peter Zou, Haiyong Wang, Millie Runion, Daniel Shubin, David Hirschowitz, Walter Guity, Max Schmidt-Warnecke, Chouchan Airapetian, Angela Agaian, Detective Denise "Cookie" Bouldin, Larry Greenawalt, Gelareh Golanbar, Alex Byelashov, Sridhar Seshadri, Face Painter Gabby Carrillo, and many others. Amazing photographs and video footage were taken throughout the weekend by Meiling Cheng.

During the opening announcements, players and their parents were treated to a visit by 9th District Congressman Adam Smith, who offered a few words of praise and encouragement to the packed room of young chess players.

Along with the one-day Scholastic and two-day Championship sections, several fun side events enhanced the immersive weekend chess experience. Saturday's busy schedule of events included a Parents and Coaches Seminar, Face Painting, SPFNO Girls Workshop, the Susan Polgar Book Sale & Signing, FM Megan Lee game analysis, All-comers blitz with FM Megan Lee, the SPFNO Puzzle Solving Competition, and the SPFNO Blitz Championship.



*A competitor sports his tiger face paint at the 2024 SPFNO.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Sunday featured the 19-player Susan Polgar Simul as well as the final three rounds of the high-stakes two-day Championship sections!

This year's 488-player attendance shattered all previous records for the SPFNO, which previously had peaked in the mid 400's when the event was held in Lexington, Kentucky. The addition of longer, FIDE-rated games in the two-day K-12 Championship sections no doubt contributed to the stronger attendance, up 80 players from last year. The organizers hope to continue the trend and are aiming for 500+ players next year, with a prospective venue in the Bellevue area already in the works! The two-day Championship sections, which

feature both open and girls-only sections, typically attract the strongest local players given the prestige of the event.

This year's two-day K-12 Open featured a star-studded lineup of several of the Northwest's strong players, including FM Stephen Willy, NM Nikash Vemparala, NM Advaith Vijayakumar, NM Ted Wang, NM Ryan Min, Gordon Xu, Alan Peng, and Vihaan Jammalamadaka. Top seeds in the K-12 Girls section included Bonnie He, Ella Guo, Emel Bayrambeyli, Selina Cheng, and Lily Deng. On the line in both the Open K-12 and Girls K-12 Championship sections were scholarships to Webster University, each valued at over \$50,000!



Detective Cookie Chess Club student Sophia Michael with a color-coordinated T-shirt and purple face paint design at the 2024 SPFNO. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

*Special congratulations to the following 2024 SPFNO winners:*

**K-1 U700:**

*First Place – Ziyou Qu (5.0/5!!)*

**2-3 U700:**

*=First/Second Place – Satvik Verma + Andy Sang (4.5/5! – Co-Champions)*

**4-6 U700:**

*=First/Second Place – Michael Wernsing + Mithran Anbuselvam (5.0/5!! - Co-Champions)*

**K-3 Open:**

*First Place – Ayyaan Roy Chowdhury (5.0/5!!)*

**4-6 Open:**

*First Place – Avery Kwan-Uchiyama (5.0/5!!)*

**7-12 Open:**

*First Place – Alexander Lebedinsky (5.0/5!!)*

**K-5 Girls:**

*=First/Second Place – Darya Byelashova + Elina Khudiyev (4.0/5! – Co-Champions)*

**K-5 Open:**

*First Place – Bright Weng (5.0/5!!)*

**K-8 Open:**

*= First/Second Place – Yash Syal + Viraj Dhawan (4.0/5! - Co-Champions)*

**K-12 Girls:**

*First Place – Emel Bayrambeyli (5.0/5!!):*

***Webster University Scholarship Winner!***

**K-12 Open:**

*First Place – Stephen Willy (5.0/5!!):*

***Webster University Scholarship Winner!***

**SPFNO Team Awards**

K-3 Top Teams:			Score
1	Somerset Elementary		13.5
2	Open Window School		13.5
3	Samantha Smith Elementary		13
4	Medina Elementary		13
4-6 Top Teams:			Score
1	Samantha Smith Elementary		16
2	Detective Cookie Chess Club		13
3	Tyee Middle School		12
4	Medina Elementary		11.5
7-12 Top Team:			Score
1	Evergreen Middle School		8

# Washington Junior Open

## CHESS TOURNAMENT

Martin Luther King Day Monday, Jan. 20, 2025

Interlake High School

16245 NE 24<sup>th</sup> St. Bellevue, WA 98008



### CLASSICAL SECTIONS

#### Open 1500+, Rising U1500

A 4-round G/50; +5 Swiss in two sections. Longer time control for Intermediate to Advanced players. Players rated 1400+ may play up into Open section for an additional \$20. Rounds: 9:15am, 11:15am, Lunch Time, 1:30pm, 3:30pm. Awards ~ 5:45pm. Armageddon playoff if needed to break tie for 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Open section immediately following the last round: G/10 white, G/8 black with draw odds.

### RAPID SECTIONS

#### K-1 U700, 2-3 U800, 4-6 U900, 7-12 U1000, K-3 Open, 4-12 Open

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss in six sections. Shorter time control for players of all levels. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45am, Lunch Time, 12:45pm, 2:15pm, 3:45pm. Awards ~ 5:15pm.

### ALL SECTIONS

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with US Chess membership required. Establish or update your national rating! Chess clocks will be used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation required in all sections except for K-1 U700 and 2-3 U800. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

### ELIGIBILITY

Open to all juniors under age 21 years of age as of the tournament date. Out-of-state players welcome!

**ENTRY FEE** \$50 by Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, \$60 after. Room for 320 players.

### AWARDS

**Section Prizes:** Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:  
1<sup>st</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>: \$65-\$60-\$55-\$50-\$45-\$40-\$35-\$30-\$25-\$20.

**Team Prizes:** Amazon Gift Cards awarded to the top 4 players from the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections:  
1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>: \$30-\$25-\$20-\$15-\$10.

**Special Prizes (per section):** Medals for first-time players, best female player (by TPR), best dressed, and biggest upset win.

### RATING

Highest of January US Chess Regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

**WA State Elementary Qualifier!**

### THE DETAILS

#### Online Registration:

[NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/)  
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead.

**100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sun. Jan 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm.**

No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players by the deadline will be withdrawn from the tournament.

**Highest finishing WA resident in the Open section seeds into the Closed section of the 2025 WA Junior Invitational.**

This event is a qualifier for the WA State Elementary Championship on April 26, 2025, in Tacoma. Players scoring 2.5+ points in the 4-round sections or 3.0+ points in the 5-round sections will qualify for the Championship sections of State.

Pizza lunch and other concessions will be available for purchase on site.

**Questions?** Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757  
[washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)

# WASHINGTON PRESIDENT'S CUP



SAT-SUN, JAN 25-26, 2025

BLAKELEY HALL

2550 NE PARK DR., ISSAQUAH, WA 98029

*Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open section seeded into the 2026 Washington State Championship – Invitational section.*

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss in two sections:

**Washington (1600+):** NWSRS, US Chess & FIDE Tri-Rated.

**Jefferson U1600:** NWSRS & US Chess Dual-Rated.

**Schedule:** Saturday 10 AM, 1 PM, 6 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 3:30 PM. Closing Ceremony: Sunday ~ 8pm or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

**Time Control:** Rd. 1: G/60; +15. Rds. 2-5: 40/100, SD/30, +15. Late default: 60 min.

**Prize Fund:** \$3,500 (based on 100 paid entries)

**Washington:** 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: \$450-375-300-225-150-125.  
1<sup>st</sup> U2000/U1800: \$100

**Jefferson:** 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>: \$325-250-175-125.  
1<sup>st</sup> U1400/U1200/U1000: \$100; 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$70

**Special Prizes** (per section): **Biggest Upset Win:** \$10/round, **Best Female Player** (by TPR): \$25, **Best Dressed:** \$20/day, **Best Senior Players** (50+ & 65+, by TPR): \$25, **Biggest USCF Rating Gain:** \$25, **Best Annotated game:** \$25. Minimum of 3 qualifying players per section for best female/senior player to be awarded.

**Entry Fee:** \$70 by 1/18, \$80 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs. Players rated 1400+ (in both NWSRS + USCF) and wishing to play up into the Washington section may register for an extra \$40 play-up fee. 100 players max – please sign up early!

**Memberships:** Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

**Byes:** Two half-point byes available. If interested, request before end of round 2.

**Rating:** US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Washington section is also FIDE Rated. Higher of January US Chess Regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

**Registration:** Online at:  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).

(pay by credit / debit / PayPal / Zelle / SettleKing) or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 1/24 @ 5pm.**

*In case of a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place, a future follow-up playoff match will determine the seed for the Invitational section of the 2026 Washington State Championship.*

**Info/Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail to: Washington Chess Federation - c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757

**Email:** [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

# OWS Fall Tornado

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Open Window School Fall Tornado took place on Saturday, October 5, at Open Window School in Bellevue. The OWS Fall Tornado is traditionally the first school-sponsored scholastic chess tournament of the State Qualifier season, which runs from early September to late April each year.

A strong turnout of 145 scholastic chess players in grades K-8 competed across five sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-1 U700, 2-3 U700, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, and K-8 Open. For thirteen courageous chess bobcats, the OWS Fall Tornado was their first ever chess tournament. This was reflected in the starter rating assigned to each new player based on their grade in school (as of the 2024-25 school year) multiplied by 100 to determine their starting rating.

The rural independent school located in Cougar Mountain right next to Lakemont offers a nice change of pace from events taking place in more urban areas, as is the case for most other scholastic events hosted in the greater Seattle area.

The tournament featured a dual format that included both rapid and classical sections to appeal to players of all ages and experience levels; the younger and less experienced chess warriors played the standard five rounds of G/25; +5, while 46 ambitious youngsters opted for the K-8 Open, in which they played four rounds of G/45; +5. This longer time control allows for more thought and planning on their end and helps many to prepare for the transition to “Open” events with both kids and adults, where longer time controls are the norm. Despite a few slow starts in the first rounds which saw

players wearing off the rust and getting their “chess legs” back after a summer hiatus, most players put forth their best effort and played up to their full potential in each game.

There was no shortage of daring attacks, adventurous gambits, wild sacrifices, unbelievable blunders, and sneaky defenses concocted by the tricky cast of characters taking part in the proceedings! As observed by tournament directors Ben Radin, Coach Mike, and Coach Josh, most players were kind, courteous, and respectful, demonstrating genuine sportsmanship and integrity throughout the tournament. The event was hosted by Open Window School, paired by Chess Mates Foundation President Ben Radin, and directed by OWS Chess Coaches Michael Hosford (K-8 Open) and Josh Sinanan (K-1 U700, 2-3 U700, K-3 Open, and 4-8 U900). OWS Chess Club parent co-chairs Michelle and David Lew organized the event, ran the concessions, and took many wonderful photos throughout the day! OWS Chess Coach and Grand Knights Chess Academy Founder Sloan Setiadikurnia was on-site reviewing games with curious and knowledge-hungry students all day and graciously shared his vast chess knowledge and experience as he reviewed more than 50 games!

Students were honored by a special visit from OWS Auxiliary Programs Manager Michelle Doiron and Director of Auxiliary Programs Euan Oswald, who helped to handle logistics and ensured that everything ran smoothly. We’d also like to thank the amazing team of volunteer judges, scorekeepers, parents, coaches, and chess families that made this fantastic event possible. We were treated to sunny and mild weather for the tournament this year, with many kids taking full advantage of the school’s sports field to exercise in between the rounds.

Congratulations to the winners!



Reigning Washington State Kindergarten Co-Champion Skyler Qin (R) considers his options at the 2024 OWS Fall Tornado. Photo credit: Jenny Yanjun.



Individual Trophy Winners					
Place	K-1 U700	2-3 U700	K-3 Open	4-8 U900	K-8 Open
1st	Ryan Zhang	Aaron Wang	Anyi Li	Charles Du	Viraj Dhawan
2nd	Advait Sairam	Joyce Gui	Mikhail Lagzdin	Jamie Hong	Rudran Srimurugan
3rd	Ryan Hu	Ryan Lingjun Li	Austin Lai	Jethro Xia	Riaan Babbar
4th	Avyukt Goyal	Akshay Gupta	Skyler Qin	Sartaj Malhotra	Avery Kwan-Uchiyama
5th	Ari Hasson	David Zhang	Jayden Wu	Sourish Panda	Soham Sharma
6th	Austin Chiang	Sanyukt Singhal	Bihe Liu	Viraj Gattamneni	Peter Luo
7th	Edwin Niu	Maxwell Xiong	Richard Rogov	Trinath Aashish Arvapalli	Sambuddha Sekhar Das
8th	Savitru Kulkarni	Dilraj Malhotra	Eason Chen	Aarav Kukreja	Rishabhdeva Patnaik
9th	Kheiron Chin	Anna Spataro	Easton Ren	Garu Tao	Jimmy Yang
10th	Ethan Zhang	Caroline Ma	Matvei Ivanov	Mila Kuo	Arjun Moghe
11th	Xander Ragno	Louis Liu			
12th	Kyle Zhang	Jaxson Ta			
13th	Max Wang	Mika Papyan			
14th	Ryder Li	Pin-Ruei Su			
15th	Yisu Chen	Sebastian Lam			
16th	Siddharth Abimanyu	Pax Dai			
17th	Emmett Chen	Brian Li			
18th	Gavin Tao	Josephine Armstrong			
19th	Iris Hou	Kristina Velichko			
20th	Rishan Sharma	Harry Deng			

Team Trophies		
Place	School	Score
1st	Open Window School	15
2nd	Somerset Elementary School	14
3rd	Chestnut Hill Academy	12.5

## Presidential Blitz Championship



Sunday, January 26, 2025

Blakeley Hall

2550 NE Park Dr., Issaquah, WA 98029

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan,  
WCF President, 206-769-3757  
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration) (pay by credit / debit / PayPal / Zelle / SettleKing) or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. Online registration and payment **deadline @ 5 PM on Saturday, January 25**, or else register at site.

**Format:** A 7-Round single Swiss in one section.

**Eligibility:** Open to all junior + adult players.

**Time Control:** G/3; +3 sec. increment.

**Schedule:** At-site registration: Sun. 7:15-8:00 PM. Rounds: 8:15 PM, 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45. Awards ~ 10 PM.

**Prize Fund:** \$670 (based on 50 paid entries).

1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$130-\$100-\$70. 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$50.

1<sup>st</sup> U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$50.

Biggest Upset Win: \$10/round.

**Entry Fee:** \$20 if postmarked or online by 1/19, \$30 by 1/25, \$40 at-site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

**Byes:** Three half-point byes available; if interested, request before end of round 2.

**Memberships:** Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

**Rating:** US Chess Blitz Rated. Higher of January US Chess or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

# Monroe National Chess Day Rapid Championship

Josh Sinanan

The Inaugural Monroe National Chess Day Rapid Championship took place on National Chess Day, Saturday October 12, at the Monroe Community Senior Center in Monroe, Washington. For those unfamiliar with Monroe, it's a charming city with a population of around 20,000 located 30 miles northeast of Seattle. WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar, a Monroe resident, scouted out the Monroe Community Senior Center and found

that it is quite suitable for hosting chess tournaments for up to 100 players. Rekha recently founded the Monroe Chess Club to provide more opportunities for Monroe players of all ages and levels to deepen their knowledge of the royal game by playing in tournaments and attending regular chess classes.

The 50-player event co-hosted by WCF and Monroe Chess Club, was held in celebration of National Chess Day,

which occurs on the second Saturday of October each year. In 1976, President Gerald Ford, himself an avid chess fan, declared the second Saturday of October to be henceforth known as "National Chess Day," to honor chess as a national pastime ignited by Bobby Fischer winning the World Chess Championship four years earlier.

Participants in the Monroe National Chess Day Rapid Championship ranged

## Monroe National Chess Day Rapid Championship

Prize Fund - \$1,150 based on 46 paid entries.

Megan Lee Championship: \$154-115-77-58.

Josh Sinanan U1300: \$115-77-62-46.

Jim McCormick U700: \$115-77-62-46.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place
Megan Lee Championship	Ryan W Porter \$154/-	Zane Wirkkala \$115/-	Peter Yu \$77/-	Leonid Gavrysh \$15/- Pratik Thorwe \$15/- Imai Maharaja \$15/- Veronique Joseph \$15/-
Josh Sinanan U1300	Alexander Alvarado \$115/-	Alex Nguyen \$77/-	Anyi Li \$27/- Abhishekh Gopal \$27/- Killian Bates \$27/- Sebastian Phillips-Acheson \$27/-	
Jim McCormick U700	Paul Victor \$115/-	Xander Ragno \$62/- Elliot Golan \$62/- Ryan Miller \$62/-		

Section	Best Female Player	Best Dressed	Biggest Upset Win	Best Senior Player	Kindness/Spreading Joy
Megan Lee Championship	Veronique Joseph	Jinmo Nam	Round 1: Ihsan Moha Nedumpurakkal Thahir Round 2: Daniel Polonsky Round 3: Ihsan Moha Nedumpurakkal Thahir Round 4: Imai Maharaja Round 5: Zane Wirkkala	Stephen Marsh	Dann Merriman
Josh Sinanan U1300	Catherine Liguori	Kevin Zhang	Round 1: Abhishekh Gopal Round 2: Killian Bates Round 3: Sebastian Phillips-Acheson Round 4: Alexander Alvarado	N/A	Jaya Bhavesh Devireddy
Jim McCormick U700	Navika Koul	Rhea Sagar	Round 4: Siddharth Abimanyu	Chad Foster	Phoenix Armitage-Selig

from unrated to master in grades K-12 and competed across three sections named after local Washington State chess players and parsed by rating: Jim McCormick U700, Josh Sinanan U1300, and Megan Lee Championship. Despite the significant commute for many non-Monroe area residents, the tournament attracted players from cities including Redmond, Lake Stevens, Sultan, Mill Creek, Monroe, Snohomish, Brier, Bothell, Shoreline, Seattle, Mercer Island, Lynnwood, Kennewick, Marysville, Duvall, Issaquah, Snoqualmie, Everett, Yarrow Point, Newcastle, Kirkland, Bellevue, Bremerton, and Ravensdale!

The spacious and well-lit playing hall was acknowledged and greatly appreciated by many, and we hope to continue running more events at the Monroe Community Senior Center in the coming months. The venue features a big parking lot with plenty of free parking available all day, in addition to many food options available within a five-minute drive. The event was co-hosted by the Monroe Chess Club and the Washington Chess Federation. WCF Co-Vice President and Monroe Chess Club Founder Rekha Sagar directed the event

and took wonderful photos throughout the day.

FM Ryan Porter of Bellevue topped the 16-player Megan Lee Championship section with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games, conceding only a single draw to 2024 Washington State Senior Champion Leonid Gavrysh in the third round. Ravensdale chess wizard Zane Wirkkala captured second place honors a half-point back with four points, dropping only a single point to Porter in the fourth round. FM Peter Yu of Bothell recovered well after a first-round loss against dark horse Ihsan Moha Nedumparakkal Thahir to claim the third place prize. Four players shared the fourth place prize with a solid "plus one" score: Leonid Gavrysh of Brier, Pratik Thorwe of Seattle, Imai Maharaja of Redmond, and Veronique Joseph of Seattle.

In the nine-player Josh Sinanan U1300 section, named after yours truly, Alexander Alvarado of Lake Stevens reigned supreme with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games, allowing only one draw against second place finisher Alex Nguyen in the fourth round. A quadruplet of chess warriors shared =Third/Fourth

Place with three points apiece: Anyi Li of Mercer Island, Abhishekh Gopal of Bothell, Killian Bates of Mill Creek, and Sebastian Phillips-Acheson of Yarrow Point.

A fantastic showing of 23 players turned out for the Jim McCormick U700 section, named in honor of the late seven-time Washington State Champion "Unkel Jim." Monroe chess aficionado Paul Victor lived up to his name and won all five of his games to claim a convincing victory in the tournament's largest section. Paul's special wooded chess set was noticeable amongst the sea of standard plastic sets in use on all the other boards. Three chess musketeers shared =second-fourth place honors a full-point back with four points each: Xander Ragno of Kirkland, Eliot Golan of Mill Creek, and Ryan Miller of Redmond.

In addition to the overall prizes, several "special" prizes were also up for grabs in each section, for categories including Best Female Player, Best Dressed, Biggest Upset Win (per round), Best Senior Player, and Kindness/Spreading Joy. Congratulations to the winners.

## Monroe Rapid Knights Challenge



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2025  
MONROE COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER  
276 SKY RIVER PKWY, MONROE, WA 98272

CO-HOSTED BY WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION AND MONROE CHESS CLUB

**Info/Entries:** Rekha Sagar, WCF VP,  
425-496-9160,  
[Rekha4Chess@gmail.com](mailto:Rekha4Chess@gmail.com)

**Registration:** Online at  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).

Pay by  
Debit/Credit/PayPal/SettleKing.  
Registration and payment **deadline**  
**Fri. Jan. 31** @ 5pm or register at-site.

**Eligibility:** Open to all juniors +  
adults.

**Schedule:** At-site registration:  
Sat. 8:00-8:45am. Rds. @ 9am,  
10:30am, Lunch, 12:30pm, 1:45pm,  
3pm. Awards ~ 4:30pm

**WA State Elementary Qualifier!**

**Format:** A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss  
tournament in three sections. Sections  
with <6 players may be merged.

- **Orlov Championship**
- **Sankrithi U1300**
- **Dorfner U700**

### Prizes:

**Orlov:** 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>: \$200-150-100-75.

**Sankrithi/Dorfner:** Trophies awarded  
to players scoring 3 points or more.

### Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$5/rd., Best  
Dressed: \$10, Best Female Player: \$10,  
Best Senior Player: \$10, Best  
Sportsmanship: \$10,  
Kindness/Spreading Joy: \$10.

**Entry Fee:** \$50 by 1/25, \$60 after. Seniors 65+  
receive a \$25 discount. Monroe Chess Club  
Players receive 50% discount. Free entry for GMs,  
IMs, WGMs, WIMs, or US Chess 2000+. Players  
rated 1200+ & 600+ in both USCF & NWSRS may  
play up 1 section into the Orlov & Sankrithi  
sections, respectively. Max of 90 players total and  
30 players per section, please register early.

**Rating:** Dual US Chess and NWSRS rated. Highest  
of Feb. US Chess or current NWSRS rating will be  
used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

**Memberships:** Current US Chess and WCF  
membership required, other states accepted.  
Membership must be paid at time of registration.

**Byes:** Two half-point byes available. If interested,  
request before end of round 2.

# **PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC**

## CHESS TOURNAMENT



President's Day Monday, February 17, 2025

Chinook Middle School

2001 98<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

### FORMAT

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss in 7 sections:

**Kindergarten**

**1-2 U700**

**3-4 U800**

**5-12 U1000**

**1-3 Open**

**4-6 Open**

**7-12 Open**

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with US Chess membership required. Establish or update your national rating! Chess clocks will be used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation required in all sections except for Kindergarten, 1-2 U700 and 3-4 U800. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

### SCHEDULE

Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45am, Lunch Time, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3:00pm. Awards presentation ~ 4:30pm or asap.

### ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12. Out-of-state players welcome!

### ENTRY FEE

\$50 by Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, \$60 after. Room for 250 players.

### AWARDS

**Section Prizes:** Amazon e-gift cards awarded in each section: 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>: \$70-65-60-55-50.

**Team Prizes:** Plaques awarded to: The top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections. The team that brings the most players across all sections wins an exclusive lesson with NM & WCF President Josh Sinanan.

**Special Prizes (per section):** Medals for first-time players, best female player (by TPR), best dressed, best sportsmanship, and biggest upset win.

### RATING

Higher of US Chess February regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

### THE DETAILS

#### Online Registration:

[NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/)  
Pay by  
Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead.

**100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sun. Feb. 16th @ 5:00pm.** Unpaid players by the deadline will be withdrawn from the tournament.

#### WA State Elementary Qualifier!

This event is a qualifier for the WA State Elementary Championship on April 26, 2025, in Tacoma. Players scoring 3.0+ points will qualify for the Championship sections of State.

Pizza lunch and other concessions will be available for purchase on site.

**Questions?** Rekha Sagar, WCF Vice President: [rekha4chess@gmail.com](mailto:rekha4chess@gmail.com)

# 2025 Western States Regional Chess Championship for Girls & Women



**Sat-Sun, April 12-13, 2025**

**Sat – Orlov Chess Academy – Seattle**  
7212 Woodlawn Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115

**Sun – Chinook Middle School**  
2001 98<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

## Format

A regional tournament open to all female chess players in three sections.

## Megan Lee Championship

A 5-round, G/60; +30 Swiss over two days (Sat-Sun). Tri-rated in NWSRS, US Chess, and FIDE. Rds.: Sat. @ OCA Seattle: 9am, 1pm, 5pm. Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 4:30pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

## Divya Deshmukh U1300

A 1-day, 5-round, G/40; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rds.: Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 10:45am, 1pm, 4:30pm, 6pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

## Carissa Yip U700

A 1-day, 5-round, G/25; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rds.: Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 10:30am, 1pm, 4:30pm, 6pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

**Prize Fund: \$2,500** (Guaranteed, thanks to generous grants and donations from US Chess & My Chess World.)

## Championship:

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$400, \$260, \$180  
1<sup>st</sup> U1800/U1600/U1400: \$60

## U1300:

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$180, \$140, \$110  
1<sup>st</sup> U1200/U1000/U800: \$60

## U700:

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$140, \$110, \$80  
1<sup>st</sup> U600/U400/U200/unrated: \$60

## Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$10/round  
Best Dressed: \$10  
Best Etiquette: \$10  
Kindness & Spreading Joy: \$10  
Best Mother/Daughter Team: \$20

**Entry Fee:** \$50 if postmarked or online by 4/5, \$60 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, and US Chess 2000+. Maximum of 30 players in Championship section and 150 players total, please register early.

**Byes:** Two half-point byes available. If interested, request before end of round 2.

**Rating:** Highest of April US Chess or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Memberships:** US Chess membership required. Membership must be paid at the time of registration.

## WA State Elementary Qualifier!

**Registration:** [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration)

Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

**Registration and payment deadline: Fri. 4/11 @ 5pm.**

For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so please consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. Payment is also available via Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com).

**Info/Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation, c/o Orlov Chess Academy – 4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052.

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, [washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)

## Fun Side Events!

**Workshop for Girls and Women:** Sun @ 12-1pm.  
Includes complementary pizza lunch!

**FM Megan Lee Simul:** Sun @ 2:15-3:45pm.  
EF: \$25. Max 25 players, please register early.

**Puzzle Solving Competition:** Sun @ 4-4:30pm. EF: \$10.



# TOURNAMENTS



## Venue

**7212 Woodlawn Avenue NE  
Seattle, WA 98115**

Info & events calendar  
[www.seattlechess.club](http://www.seattlechess.club)

Entries & inquiries  
SCC Tournament Director  
same address as above

– or –

[contact@seattlechess.club](mailto:contact@seattlechess.club)

## January 4

**Format:** 3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating. **Time Control:** Game/100 + 15 sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$15 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **Prizes:** winner of each 4-player quad wins free entry to next Quads played within 3 months. **Registration:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2:15 & 6:30pm. **Byes:** 0. US Chess membership req'd.

## January Quads

## January 11-12

See below.

## 2025 Seattle City Championship

## January 3, 10, 17, 24

One US Chess-rated round per Friday night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm. **Time Control:** 40 moves/90 minutes w/10 sec. increment, followed by sudden death 60 minutes w/10 sec. increment. **Entry:** Free for SCC members, \$5/night others. Drop in for any round!

## January Thaw

## January 31

4 or 5 rounds depending on turnout, beginning at 7:30pm. **TC:** Game15, no increment. **Entry:** Free for SCC members, \$5 others. US Chess Quick rated.

## Fifth Friday G/15

*Wednesdays are for casual play. It's free! Come anytime 7-11pm.*

# 2025 SEATTLE CITY CHAMPIONSHIP JANUARY 11-12, 2025

A 5-round Swiss in 1 section with time control of Game75 with 30-second increment

**Prize fund: \$1500** based on 40 paid entries, 3 per prize group.

<b>FIRST</b>	<b>\$450</b>	<b>SECOND</b>	<b>\$350</b>	<b>U1800</b>	<b>\$240</b>
<b>U1600</b>	<b>\$190</b>	<b>U1400</b>	<b>\$140</b>	<b>U1200/UNR</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>BIGGEST UPSET WIN, RDS 1-3 \$10</b>					

- **Entry fees** by 1/6: SCC and Seattle University CC members \$70, others \$80. After 1/6 add \$10.
- **Rounds:** Saturday 10am, 2 & 6pm; Sunday 11am & 3pm. **Registration:** 9:00-9:45am.
- **Venue:** Seattle University, Advancement & Alumni Bldg., 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. & E. Marion St., Seattle 98122.
- **Byes:** 1 half-point bye available. Commit at registration for Sunday rounds.
- **Max 48 seats.** Sign up at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>. US Chess membership required.

**We encourage the winners of SCC 2-day tournaments during 2024 to participate:** 2024 City Champion *Leonid Gavrysh*; Winter Adult Swiss, Spring Adult Swiss & Spring Open *Aziz Degenbaev*; Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss *Paul Bartron, Paul Harwood, Michael Hosford & David Rupel*; Emerald City Open *Ryan Ackerman, Rafael Palathingal & Leonardo Wang*; Seafair Open *Aziz Degenbaev & Ray Kaufman*; Fall Open *Darsh Verma*; Autumn Adult Swiss *Bental Tagor*; August Piper Memorial Adult Swiss *Gerald Larson & Peter Yu*; and 2024 Friday Night Champion *Jason Loving*.

# 12th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open

Apr 18-20 or Apr 19-20, 2025, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess  
150 GPP (Enhanced)

**\$27,500!!** (b/275)

**\$17,000!!** (Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated  
OPEN Section

**NEW LOCATION: J Resort Casino Hotel, 345 N. Arlington Avenue, Reno, NV 89501**

**Downtown Reno, formerly Sands Regency Casino Hotel**

**6 Rd Swiss ♦ 6 Sections ♦ 40/2, Game/1 - d5 ♦ (Open Section) 40/2, Game/55 - d5 ♦ 2 Day (Rds 1-3) G/1 - d5**

**Open Section (2200 & above) EF:** \$194, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 3/21 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed Prizes: (1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

**Open Section** \$2,000 - 1,000 - 900 - 800 - 700 - 600 - 500, (2399/below) \$1,000 - \$500, (2299/below) \$1,000 - \$500 (If there is a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of prize fund plus trophy).

**Section Expert** (2000-2199) EF: \$194 (2-day EF: \$190) \$2,000-1,000-500-300-200

**Section "A"** (1800-1999) EF: \$193 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,800-900-500-300-200

**Section "B"** (1600-1799) EF: \$192 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,700-800-400-300-200

**Section "C"** (1400-1599) EF: \$191 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,500-700-400-300-200

**Section "D/Under"** (1399-below) EF: \$180 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,000-500-300-200, (1199/below) \$400-200-100

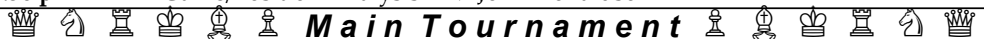
**Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Championship - \$600 - 300.**

**Wed. 4/16: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)**

**Thursday 4/17: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)**

**7:30 pm - GM Enrico Sevillano Simul (\$20); Blitz (G/5 d0) Tourney \$25 - 80% of entries = Prize Fund**

**Saturday 4/19: 3 - 4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson**

 **Main Tournament**

**Registration: Thursday (4/17) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (4/18) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (4/19) 9 - 10 am.**

**Round Times: (3-day Schedule) Friday - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday - 9 am - 4 pm (2-day Schedule) Sat.- Rd 1 - 10:30 am, Rd 2 - 12:45 pm, Rd 3 - 3 pm, Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 6 pm**

**For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel, (H) 775-747-1405 OR (Cell) 775-354-8728 • 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523 • wackyykl@aol.com**

**Room Reservation: Call J Resort Reno, 1-866-386-7829, Group Reservation Code: CHESS 2025**

**Hotel Rates: Sunday-Thursday \$104.01, Friday-Saturday \$138.06, all taxes and fees included. Reserve by 4/9**

**For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: [www.renochess.org](http://www.renochess.org)**

**ENTRY FORM - 12th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open - Reno, Nevada - Apr 18-20 OR Apr 19-20, 2025**

Mail to: WEIKEL CHESS LLC, 6578 Valley Wood Drive, Reno NV 89523

PRINT Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ USCF Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

USCF ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ All pre-registered players check in at TD desk on arrival.

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW) BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (circle) 

1	2	3	4	5	6
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----- OPEN SECTION ----- EXPERT "A" "B" "C" "D/Under" UNRATED

GM/IM • Masters • 2000-2199 • 1999-Below 2000-2199 1800-1999 1600-1799 1400-1599 1399-Below Free With

<b>3-Day EF</b>	Free •	\$194 •	\$250 •	\$300	\$194	\$193	\$192	\$191	\$180	USCF Dues
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<b>2-Day EF</b>	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	USCF Dues
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**FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:**

- \$30 Wed. Clock Simul GM Kudrin
- \$20 Thu. Simul GM Sevillano
- \$25 Thursday Blitz (G/5 d0)
- \$20 Discount - Sr 65+ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**POSTMARK BY March 21, 2025.** Add \$11 after 3/21. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 4/11 or email after 4/15. Make check / m.o. payable to WEIKEL CHESS LLC or provide credit card info and signature. \$7 service charge on credit card entries.  Visa  Master Card  Am.Ex

Name on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Check Enclosed
- Charge My Card

**TOTAL FEES:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

